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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Machine Gun Production in Kazakhstan

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1. Forming part of a vast industrial combine in northwestern Kazakhstan is the factory area which lies in the angle between the river Tobol and its tributary the Uzh. The whole area is constantly being developed. Steel plants and foundries are being erected, and a whole network of narrow gauge railways connects the various parts.
2. The majority of ordinary workers there are Pws, although all positions involving responsibility are held by Soviets. Few women are employed. Work is in 12-hour shifts which change at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
3. In September 1948, Pws began to be treated more as civilian workers and were even given warm civilian clothes. In October-November 1948, workers were given a good hot meal four times a week. It became clear that by such persuasive methods, which also included propaganda for the USSR, the authorities were trying to recruit Germans on a semi-permanent basis. Returning Pws learned that these recruiting methods were being employed in other districts of the Soviet Union at the same time.
4. Among other things produced in the factory district between the Tobol and the Uzh is the machine gun L 46. Each works engaged in its production turns out from 10 to 15 machine guns per day, complete with jacket, belt, and spare parts.
5. Externally the L 46 appears similar to machine gun 43 used during the war, but it has the following improvements:
 - a. The jacket is 26mm. longer, making it 48.6cm. The difference in length is a result of the increased barrel length.
 - b. The flash damper is 5mm. larger in the new model and reduces the flash considerably.

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- c. The barrel, being increased in length by 26mm., has more rifling; the distance between the rifling is less. Thus the rifling is longer and narrower. This change has a favorable effect on the course of the bullet and on target accuracy.
 - d. The magazine lever is 16.4cm. long and thus 1.2cm. shorter than in the older models. This has a beneficial effect on the continuity of fire.
 - e. The breech head (Schlosskopf): The sliding block on the shaft is more solid in order to obviate its breaking when the bolt is closed sharply in the case of rapid firing.
 - f. The head of the striker is made of a new alloy consisting of 3 parts iron, 8 parts steel, 1.4 parts copper and lead, and 3 parts of unknown metal. This new alloy gives greater elasticity and strength.*
 - g. The belt parts are longer and now hold 80 rounds. The machine gun magazines are thus also longer, take 5 belts, and hold 400 rounds in all.
6. Almost all kinds of light arms are made in these works, including an automatic rifle known as I 45.

* ☐ Comment: The alloy described in this paragraph sounds doubtful to us. 50X1-HUM

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